

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Introduction

We organized concurrent sessions of discussion groups for the first time in the series of national and international symposiums held at NIME. The steering committee expected that the delegates would have a chance to freely discuss a topic of their choice in a congenial atmosphere of smaller groups. We also aimed to have, between the plenary sessions where we would have a lot to learn from foreign panelists, a chance for presenting our own works at NIME and share our experiences with the delegates. After a call for topics for the discussion groups, five members of NIME proposed to organize their session. Their topics ranged from instructional applications of recent technologies such as virtual reality, DVD, and TV conferencing to basic inquiries into learning processes with visual media and the nature of learning with digital technologies. In addition, we could have a proposal from Australia on the overview and evaluation of distance learning activities. The total of six sessions took place in different rooms within NIME, and also with varied styles of live TV conferencing, round table, poster presentation, and panel discussion. We express our thanks especially to those presenters who contributed to the sessions from outside of NIME.

Hiroo Saga [Moderator of the Discussion Group Sessions]